Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue #10 Edisto Research and Education Center in Blackville, SC 6 July 2017

Pest Patrol Alerts

The information contained herein each week is available via text alerts that direct users to online recordings. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. After a new message is posted, a text message is sent to alert users that I have recorded a new update. Users can subscribe for text message alerts for my updates in two easy steps. Step one: register by texting **pestpat7** to 97063. Step two: reply to the confirmation text you receive by texting the letter "y" to complete your registration. Pest Patrol Alerts are sponsored by Syngenta.

Updates on Twitter

When noteworthy events happen the in the field, I will be sending them out quickly via Twitter. If you want to follow those quick updates, follow me at @bugdocisin on Twitter.

Training Opportunity

We will offer an in-field scouting school on 19 July and spend a couple of hours in cotton and soybean fields demonstrating techniques for estimating populations of insects, discussing management options for important insects, and answering questions. Jonathan Croft, Charles Davis, and Jeremy Greene will conduct this scouting school. This hands-on, in-field training will begin at 9 AM at the Cameron Cotton and Seed Company location (301 Boyce Lawton Drive, Cameron, SC 29030) and conclude at 12 PM with lunch and final discussion. Recertification credits for pesticide licenses and CCA will be available. Please contact Jonathan at 803-534-6280 or croft@clemson.edu by 17 July if you plan to attend. We need a good estimate for attendance for the meal and handouts. Additional training opportunities in the works.

News from Around the State

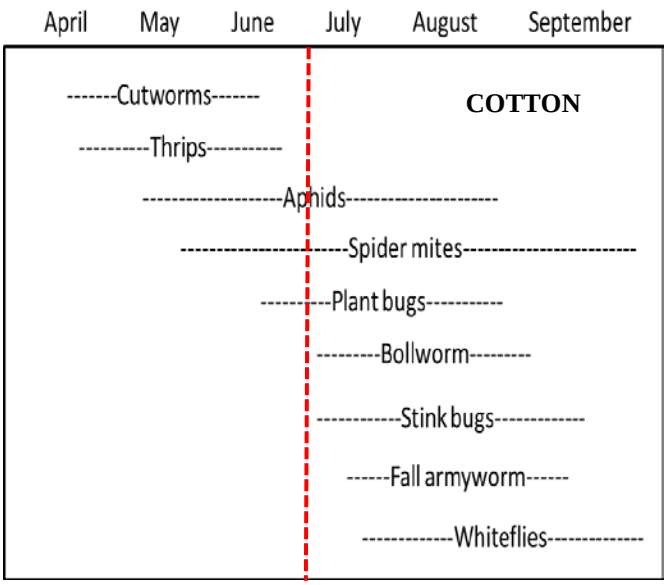
Andrew Warner, county agent in Hampton, and **Charles Davis**, county agent in Calhoun County, both reported observing some aphids in cotton but that, mostly, it was quiet in cotton and soybeans concerning insects. Both mentioned that the rains are keeping the crops looking good so far. **Jay Crouch**, county agent in Newberry County, reported that he is seeing "increasing numbers of adult kudzu bugs in beans, but nothing major right now."

Cotton Situation

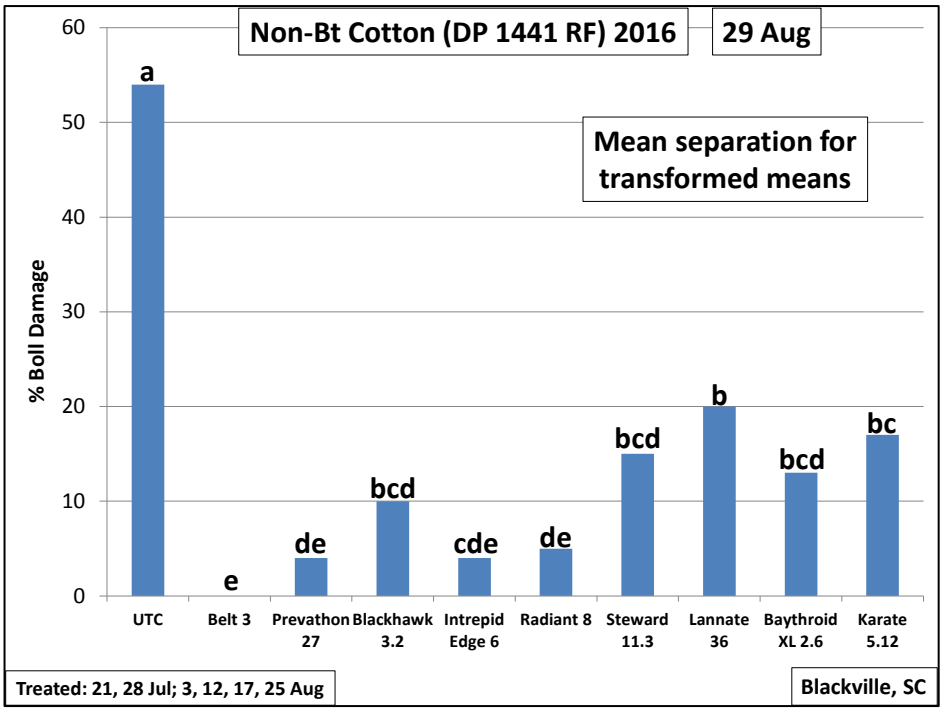
As of 2 July 2017, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 45% of the crop is squaring, compared with 32% the previous week, 38% at this time last year, and 40% for the 5-year average. About 3% of the crop is setting bolls, compared with 1% the previous week, 1% at this time last

year, and 6% for the 5-year average. The condition of the crop was described as 35% excellent, 60% good, 5% fair, 0% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Cotton Insects



As we move into blooming, it is now time to focus on bollworms and stink bugs. Continue to check for aphids, plant bugs, and spider mites, but the focus should clearly shift to "bugs" and "worms" in cotton now or very soon. As most of you know, most of the Bt varieties will do just fine in controlling bollworm, but supplemental applications are often necessary. We have had some recent data that indicate that the pyrethroid insecticides might not be providing the level of control of bollworm that we have observed in the past. That being stated, we are not yet ready to change our recommendations. We are still recommending pyrethroids for control of stink bugs and any escaped bollworms, as that class of chemistry provides excellent control of stink bugs and should still be active on bollworm to some level. Tank mixes of a pyrethroid plus a caterpillar material, such as Prevathon, Steward, Blackhawk, Intrepid Edge, or a pre-mixed product with a pyrethroid and lep material, such as Besiege, will likely become the standard in the near future. The chart here is a snapshot of boll damage caused by bollworm after multiple applications of the materials listed. Go scout! Use our thresholds for bollworm and stink bugs (see Pest Management Handbook – link near bottom of this newsletter). Once we get a week or two into bloom, you can stop checking for plant bugs with square retention counts and sweep nets and focus on the boll-injury threshold that covers all boll-feeding bugs (stink bugs, plant bugs, leaffooted bugs, etc.).

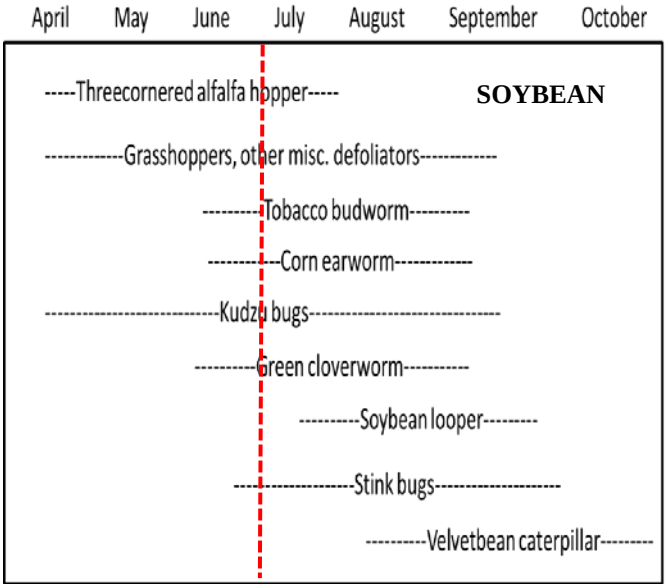


Soybean Situation

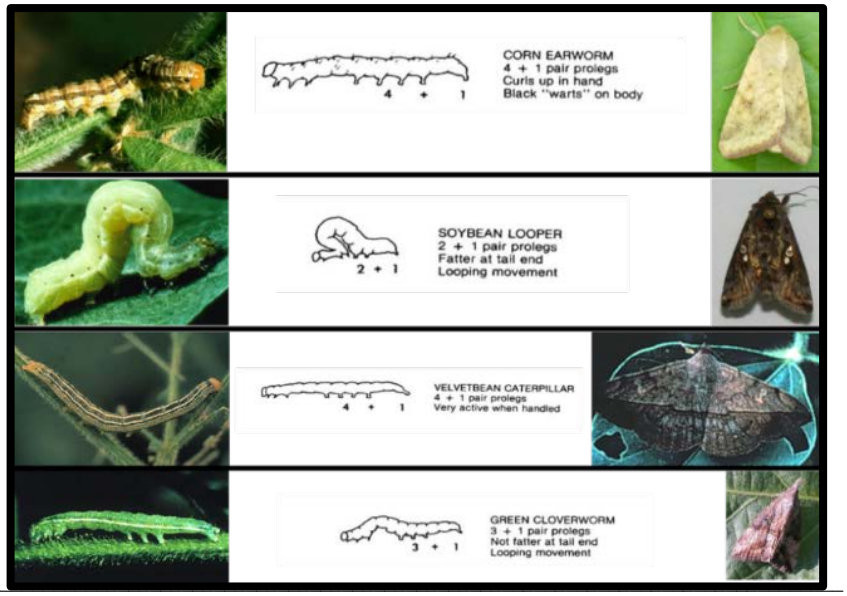
As of 2 July 2017, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 96% of our soybean crop has been planted, compared with 90% the previous week, 95% at this time last year, and 93% for the 5-year average. About 89% of the crop has emerged, compared with 80% the previous week, 93% at this time last year, and 84% for the 5-year average. About 11% of the crop is blooming, compared with 5% the previous week, 3% at this time last year, and 5% for the 5-year average. The condition of the crop was described as 12% excellent, 80% good, 8% fair, 0% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Soybean Insects

Continue to check for the stem-feeding insects, such as kudzu bugs and threecornered alfalfa hoppers (TCAH). Kudzu bugs and TCAH are present in most stops in soybeans, so scout for these insects. Again, our research on kudzu bugs supports treating for kudzu bugs if reproducing populations reach 1 nymph per sweep or when nymphs are observed on most canopy checks. Treat for TCAH if numbers reach several per rowft or sweep and feeding is observed. Pyrethroid insecticides typically do a fine job in controlling TCAH and kudzu bugs. Continue to pay attention to the moths taking short flights from row to row while you are walking fields. Here is a guide to identifying those moths depositing eggs that turn into the pest caterpillars also shown here.



Tobacco budworm moth. Caterpillars look identical to corn earworm larvae.



Numbers of TBW moths caught in pheromone traps this past week were down some, but be aware of TBW, as this species can be a problem in soybeans and require a more expensive insecticide than pyrethroids, which are ineffective on TBW.

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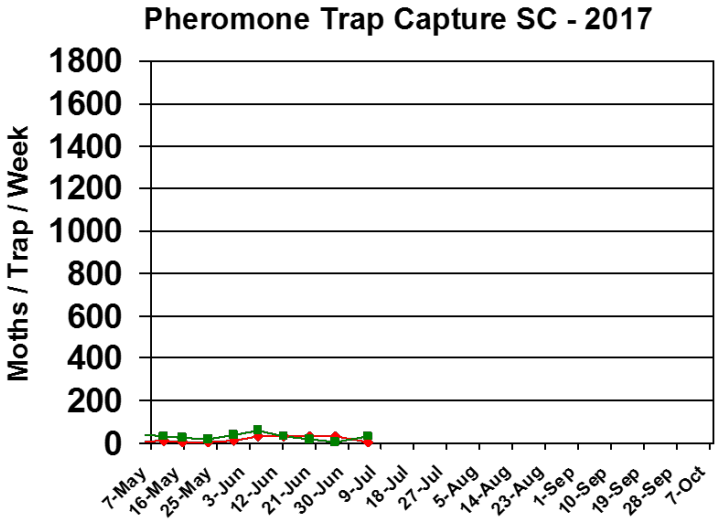
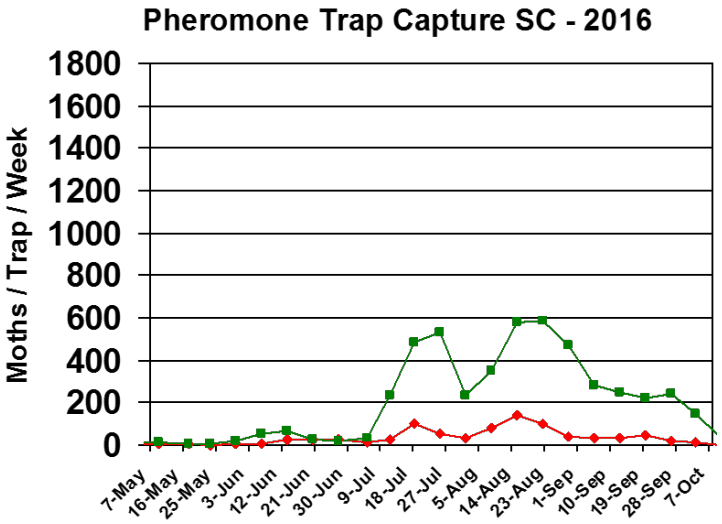
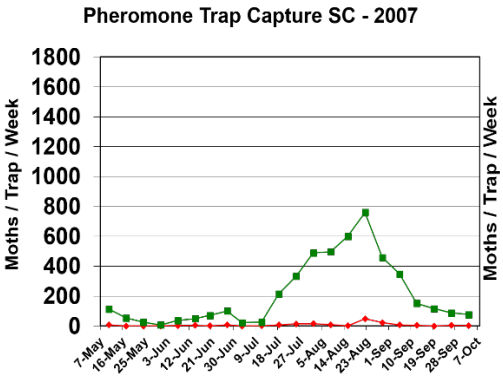
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm

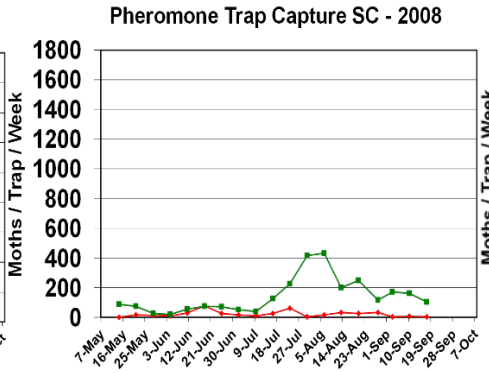
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2016 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these data as a measure of moth presence and activity in our local area near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.

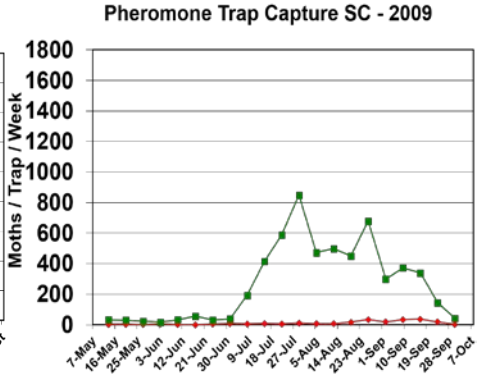


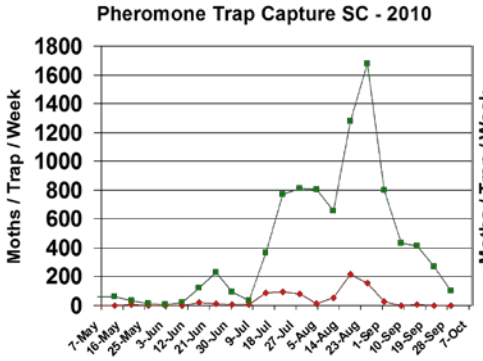


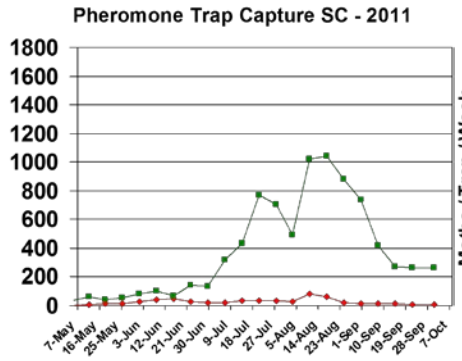
Trap data from 2007-2015 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:

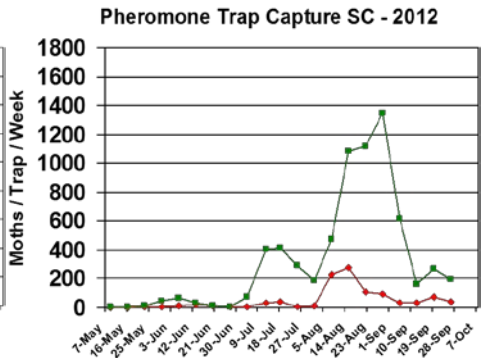


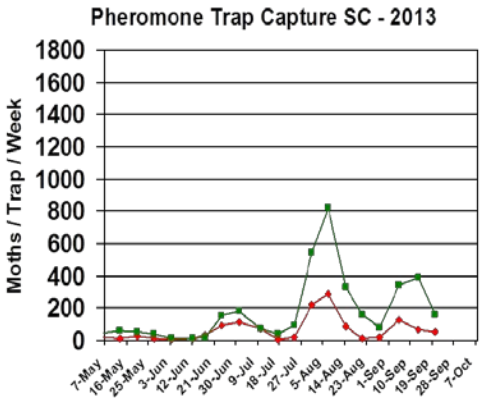


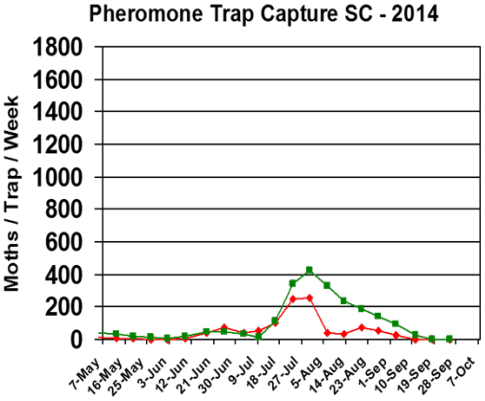


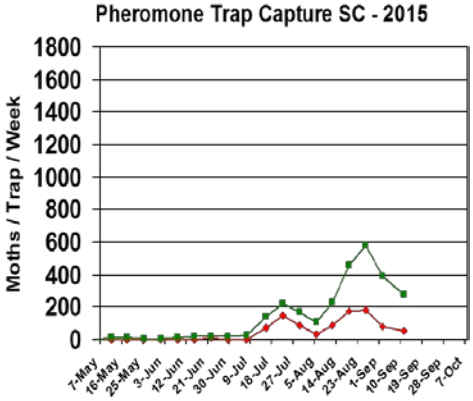












Pest Management Handbook – 2017

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2017 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at: http://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/pest%20management%20handbook.html

Free Mobile Apps: "Calibrate My Sprayer" and "Mix My Sprayer"

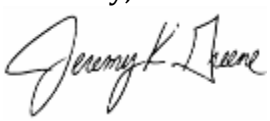
Download our free mobile apps called "Calibrate My Sprayer" and "Mix My Sprayer" that help check for proper calibration of spraying equipment and help you with mixing user-defined pesticides, respectively, in custom units (available in both iOS and Android formats): http://www.clemson.edu/extension/mobile-apps/

Need More Information?

For more Clemson University Extension information: http://www.clemson.edu/extension/

For historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters: http://www.clemson.edu//extension/agronomy/cotton1/newsletters.html

Sincerely,



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Professor of Entomology

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